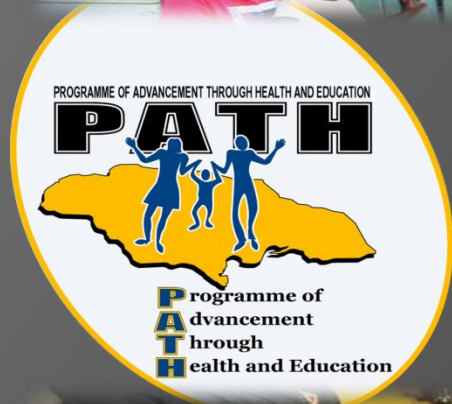




GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND
SOCIAL SECURITY



Social Protection Seminar –Haiti
June 21-22, 2022



A GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PROGRAMME

*PATH: Advancing your Family,
Developing Jamaica*



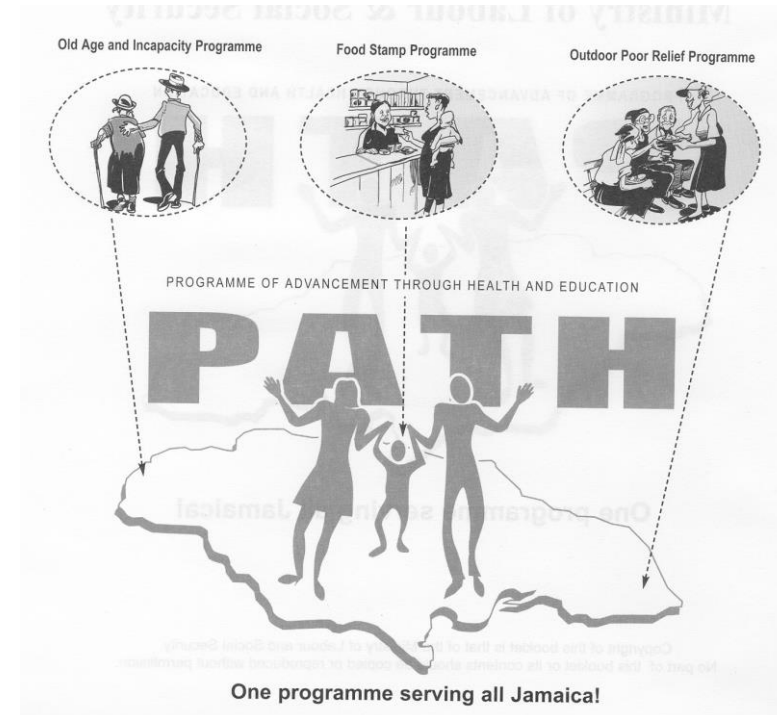
GENESIS OF PATH

Reform of the Social Safety Net (SSN) programmes approved in July 2000 in order to:

- I. Reduce duplication of benefits and services
- II. Increase coverage of “poor” persons and reduce leakages to non-poor
- III. More objective and transparent method of selection.
- IV. Develop more cost effective delivery of benefits
- V. Establish link between benefits delivery and human capital investment esp. in Education and Preventive Health Care



Consolidation of the Food Stamp, Old Age and Incapacity as well as the Outdoor Poor Relief Programmes into PATH in 2001



OBJECTIVES OF PATH

- Increase educational attainment & improve health outcomes of poor households
- Reduce child labour by requiring an 85% school attendance
- Reduce current poverty by increasing value of benefits to the poor.
- Serves as a safety net for poor families.
- Break the inter generational cycle of poverty



WHAT DOES PATH DO?

- Identify the poorest households in the society, using a Beneficiary Identification System (BIS).
- Pool all identified poor households into a Management Information System (MIS) for cross-sector targeting
- Provide Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) and other benefits to PATH Households.
- Monitor school attendance and health visits of beneficiaries.



OPERATIONS OF PATH

- Application completed for each family – using a proxy means consumption based assessment tool
- Verification visit done for each qualified family
- Compliance Requirements: 85% School attendance for students & Health Centre visits for children under 6 years and pregnant & lactating women based on prescribed schedule
- Persons who fail to meet the compliance requirement receive partial payment of grant.
- Payment of bi-monthly grants
- Families reapply after 4 years of participation in the programme



TARGET POPULATION(BENEFICIARIES)

- Children (0 – age of leaving secondary school)
- The Elderly – 60 years and above
- Persons with Disabilities – all ages
- Pregnant and Lactating Women
- Adult Poor (indigent)
- Poor Relief recipients

Approximately 280,000 beneficiaries

Children account for 65%

Elderly 17%

130,000 families



PATH BENEFITS

- Bi-monthly cash grants
- School Feeding (through the Ministry of Education)
- Exam fees and tuition fees for secondary students before those fees were removed
- Post secondary & tertiary grants
- Case management – psychosocial support, grants and civil certification documents.
- Steps to Work – Working age members of PATH families access skills training and employment opportunities



GENDER DYNAMICS OF PATH

- Head of household/family representative is predominantly women: 75-80%
- Benefit payments are made to family representatives who are women
- Differentiated payments were introduced in 2008 for students with a 10% higher amount for boys to motivate school attendance
- PATH Top Achiever Awards to reward academic excellence with special focus on male and female top students.
- Piloting of a parenting programme in 2014 with a special component for father participation.
- Special scholarship programme on the 10th & 15th anniversary of PATH for both males and females to encourage pursuit of higher education and reward academic excellence



COVID RESPONSE

Challenges

- Economic hardship for PATH families
- School Closure impacting attendance and school feeding
- Collection of Benefit Payments (observation of COVID Protocols)
- Social Workers not able to do field visits
- Waiver of compliance requirements and potential loss in educational outcomes after 2+ years of non face to face school
- Response to multi-hazard environment, regular disaster response, covid and regular work while at the same time being impacted by COVID.

Response

- Early payment dates for PATH payments on the onset of COVID
- Additional bi-monthly cash grant in May 2020 (total payments for year 7 instead of 6) to all PATH families
- Top up on the back to school grant in August 2020
- One-off payment to all PATH families in December 2021
- Special Cash grant to families on PATH with children with disabilities along with food packages (August – December 2020).
- Waiver of school attendance & health centre visit requirements since March 2022 resulting in Payment of full benefits instead of flat rate
- School feeding grants to PATH families in lieu of meals provided in school
- Accelerating alternate options (from cheques to electronic payment methods -15% pre-covid to 39% by 2021)
- Stagger payments to reduce crowding at pay out locations



PATH EXPENDITURE TO HOUSEHOLDS

2019/2020
(Pre-COVID)
J\$7.15 Billion

2020/2021
(COVID)
J\$12.3 Billion

2021/2022
COVID YR2
J\$10.8 Billion

72%↑
over 2019

51%↑
over 2019

